

**Report to the Economic Development and Enterprise
Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

2nd December 2015

Newcastle-under-Lyme draft Housing Strategy 2016-2021



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Introduction

To enable Members to consider and comment on the priorities and key actions of the draft housing strategy 2016 – 2021 prior to going out for consultation in January 2016.

Background

The current five year housing strategy expires in 2016. Officers have drafted a new strategy to cover the period 2016-2021 and will be seeking comments from all interested parties through a formal consultation in the New Year.

Questions to be Addressed

Members are requested to consider the draft strategy.

Do Members agree with the five key priorities identified in the draft strategy?

Do members consider that there is more we can do to:

- A) Increase the supply of affordable housing
- B) Provide help and advice in finding a home
- C) Bring empty homes back into use
- D) Improve housing conditions in the private sector
- E) Promote energy efficiency and reduce fuel poverty
- F) Help our most vulnerable residents to remain independent at home

Outcomes

Members can give their views during the meeting and also forward written submissions directly to the Housing and Regeneration Service as part of the open consultation.

Supporting Information

The quality of housing, its cost and location is of primary importance to ensure everyone has the opportunity to participate in their community. Moreover, housing has a significant role in people's quality of life; their wellbeing and health.

Since the publication of the last Housing Strategy which covered the period 2011-2016, there has been significant change to both the national and local approach towards housing policy and funding opportunities for building and improving homes.

To ensure we are prepared for the challenge ahead, it is essential that we work with our partner Registered housing Providers, developers, stakeholders and residents to embrace the opportunities which will support our priorities. We have therefore developed this draft Housing Strategy in consultation with them and identified five key priorities:

- Priority 1 To support the delivery of affordable housing and development**
- Priority 2 To provide help and advice for finding a home**
- Priority 3 To reduce the number of empty homes**
- Priority 4 To give support to the Private Sector**
- Priority 5 To promote independence and inclusion to our most vulnerable residents**

To achieve these, we will continue to work within the Council's core objectives to ensure investment is targeted to achieve maximum outcomes, and extend our enabling role to guide, direct and influence developments and services by working with partners, local people and communities.

We have put in place a service delivery plan for measuring progress and will use this to evaluate our outcomes and share this information with our residents and partners through a variety of communication mediums.

Conclusions

Comments from the Committee and individual representations are welcomed and will be considered. This will enable appropriate revisions to be made to the strategy prior to Cabinet adopting the final strategy in the New Year.

Relevant Portfolio Holder(s)

Planning and Housing.

Appendices

The Draft Housing Strategy 2016 – 2021.